



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPI 2008-176

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

CONTACT: Patrick Gasper, Communications Officer, (608) 266-3559

Three organizations receive Prevention Partner Awards

Second annual awards recognize organizations that contribute to student success

MADISON—Three organizations that work to make schools and students safer and healthier received State Superintendent's Prevention Partner Awards during the Building the Heart of Successful Schools conference Dec. 4 in Wisconsin Dells.

"Community organizations are a vital part of our efforts to keep students safe and feeling connected, valued, and engaged in their learning," said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. "These award recipients work with schools statewide to help prevent and reduce barriers that can impede student achievement."

Awards recognized significant contributions that partner agencies and organizations have made to statewide prevention efforts. The second annual awards went to:

The **Children's Health Education Center**, located in the city of Milwaukee and led by Executive Director Bridgette Clemente, for providing a variety of health education services for schools throughout the metro area and beyond. The center partnered with the DPI to create on-line lessons in bullying and harassment. This innovation has been a cost effective way to provide information and strategies to understand limits on behavior and how to prevent being a victim. The effort also complements the department's "Bullying Prevention Curriculum."

The **Wisconsin Clearinghouse for Prevention Resources**, located on the campus of University of Wisconsin-Madison and led by Executive Director Kathy Wolf, for serving as a statewide leader in the area of adolescent alcohol and other drug abuse prevention and education. Specific efforts include organization of the annual statewide prevention conference, facilitation of numerous Family and Community Town Suppers (FACTS) to help organize local prevention efforts, and service on numerous statewide advisory boards and councils. The clearinghouse has partnered with DPI on many policy development efforts, including participation in the Superintendent's Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council and the Wisconsin After-School Network.

(more)

The **Wisconsin Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Education Network (WATODEN)** for facilitating regional and county prevention coalitions in a wide variety of youth risk behavior initiatives. These include adolescent substance abuse, tobacco prevention and cessation, violence prevention, and crisis response preparations. Each of the state's 12 cooperative educational service agencies employs a facilitator to organize these coalitions and support their work. Originally begun as part of the DPI's "Count on Me" initiative in 1988, the network is celebrating two decades of service to the state's schools and communities and its ongoing partnership with the DPI.

"Helping children is not a 'one size fits all' mold. Young people need multiple strategies and options," Burmaster said. "Prevention program providers, working together with schools, communities, and families, contribute to students' educational success."

###

NOTE: This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008_176.pdf. Photographs from the awards presentation are available from the State Superintendent's Photo Gallery on the Department of Public Instruction website at <http://dpi.wi.gov/sprntdnt/photos/2008.12.04.PreventionPartners/index.html>.